



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 10/589,883 | 08/18/2006 | Katsuhide Ohashi | 056208.58072US | 2811 |
| 23911 | 7590 | 04/28/2009 | EXAMINER | |
| CROWELL & MORING LLP | | | AYCHILLHUM, ANDARGIE M | |
| INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP | | | | |
| P.O. BOX 14300 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300 | | | 2841 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | | 04/28/2009 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/589,883 | OHASHI ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | ANDARGIE M. AYCHILLHUM | 2841 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-8 and 12-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 August 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/05/2009, 05/20/2008 and 08/18/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election of claims 1, 2 and 9-11 in the reply filed on 03/06/2009 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-2 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakagawa et al. (US 7,192,317 B2).

Pertaining to claim 1, Nakagawa et al. discloses composite molding characterized (column 4, lines 29-35, see figs. 1 and 4) in that resin bands (25, see figs. 1, 3 and 4) surrounding the circumference of terminal components (20) for electrically connecting with an exterior are formed (column 3, lines 23-25) between electrical contact portions of the terminal components (20) and resin for fixedly holding the

terminal components (20), and gaps (see figs. 1, 4) are formed among the adjoining resin bands (25).

Pertaining to claim 2, Nakagawa et al. further discloses the gaps (see figs. 1 and 4) are formed between a bundle comprising plural terminals (20, see figs. 1 and 4), which has the resin bands (25) and resin surrounding the bundle (see column 3, lines 31-40).

Pertaining to claim 10, Nakagawa et al. discloses a composite molding characterized (column 4, lines 29-35, see figs. 1 and 4) in that a circumference of each of terminal components (20) is covered with continuous annular resin band (25) between electrical contact portions (column 3, lines 23-25) of the terminal components (20) and resin for fixedly holding the terminal components, and there are gaps (see figs. 1, 3 and 4) among adjoining resin bands (25), the composite molding being insert-molded using the terminal components as an insert (see figs. 1-4).

Pertaining to claim 11, Nakagawa et al. further discloses there are formed gaps (see figs. 1, 3 and 4) among bundles of terminals (20) each having resin surrounding the bundles (see figs. 1-4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagawa et al. (US 7,192,317 B2) in view of Takahashi (US 6,068,523).

Pertaining to claim 9, Nakagawa et al. discloses a structure of the electrical contact portions of the terminal components (20) between the electrical contact (column 3, lines 23-25) portions and the resin fixedly holding the terminal (20, see figs. 1 and 4)

But, Nakagawa et al. does not disclose if the resin fixedly holding the terminal components is rectangular or columnar.

However, Takahashi discloses that the resin fixedly holding the terminal components (see figs. 1 and 2) are rectangular or columnar shape (44, see fig.4).

Therefore, it would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the resin bands of Nakagawa et al. which hold the terminal component with the shape of rectangular or columnar based on the teachings of Takahashi in order to make better molding in balance of shrinking and deforming directions.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDARGIE M. AYCHILLHUM whose telephone number is (571)270-1607. The examiner can normally be reached on (Mon-Fri from 8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A.A.
April 23, 2009

/Tuan T Dinh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2841